

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Rose-Hulman Scholar

The Rose Thorn Archive

Student Newspaper

Fall 9-17-2010

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Rose Thorn Staff

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, library@rose-hulman.edu

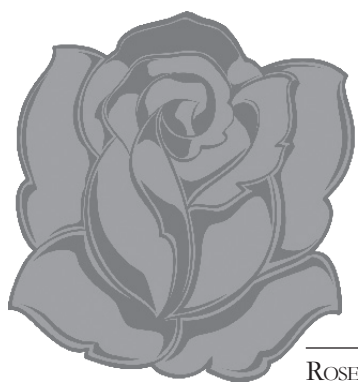
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THE ROSE THORN

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY • TERRE HAUTE, IN • [HTTP://THORN.ROSE-HULMAN.EDU](http://thorn.rose-hulman.edu) • FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2010 • VOLUME 46 • ISSUE 2

Deming takes Hallympics



Clockwise from top left: students dig in and pull during the Tug of War; a freshman runs a bucket of water from Speed Lake to his team's trash can during the Bucket Thing; two contestants dig in to their pies during the relay race; freshmen stream into the SRC for the dodgeball competition. Deming won this year's Hallympics with 190 points, a 70-point margin over second-place BSB.

Mitch Pettigrew & Kaicheng Feng • guest photographers

Computer scientists, meet Sweden

Scott Gallmeier • News Editor

The Alps, Geneva, and members of the Computer Science Department all have one thing in common: Sweden. This week members of CSSE 241, Computing in a Global Society, have trekked across the world to work on a project designed to integrate electronic medical record keeping in United States and Swedish hospitals.

This venture began seven years ago, but this is the first time the students have worked so closely together. Four members of the class arrived on September 13th and are staying for approximately one week. During this week, they broke into small groups in order to properly focus on the various components of such a large project. The different areas of focus for the group include the logging of medical

data on a electronic network, the access of data across a large network, and the security of such vital information.

However, this trip has not been all work for the Rose-Hulman students. The Uppsala students have taken this opportunity to show the Rose-Hulman students around town including major sites like the Uppsala Cathedral and an evening of bowling.

This is not the first such endeavor that the Computer Science department has undertaken. Last fall, the department took two students to work on a project in Turkey as part of a globalization drive.



Rose-Hulman and Uppsala University students all work on a new healthcare program.

Cary Laxer • Rose-Hulman

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Kylie Minogue's new album hits stores in July; read the Monkey's take on her music



PAGE 4: ENTERTAINMENT

Learn to support your local sports teams and heckle the opposition (and refs) properly in this issue's How-To



PAGE 5: LIVING

The new furniture in Olin Lobby is a step forward, but still misses the mark



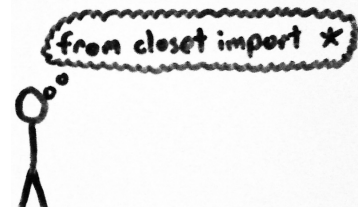
PAGE 6: OPINIONS



Women's volleyball continues an unprecedented 9-0 winning streak, and will go up against the nation's top teams this week

PAGE 7: SPORTS

The CS department proves once again to be an unending source of humor



PAGE 8: FLIPSIDE

FILLOMINO

Rose Brewer • staff puzzler

Fill in the board so each number is a member of a block with the same amount. Each block is defined as cells above, under, right and left (not diagonal). Eg, there should always be two 2’s beside each other (above, under, right and left), three 3’s etc.

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HITORI

Rose Brewer • staff puzzler

1. Each number must not be in each row and column more than once. If there is more than one number, some of the numbers must be marked as black.
2. No black cell beside each other, only diagonally.
3. The white cells must be continuous.

EXAMPLE

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THE ROSE THORN

“Working to keep the Rose-Hulman community informed by providing an accurate and dependable source for news and information.”

Tim Ekl • *editor-in-chief*

Alex Mullans • *editor-in-chief*

Scott Gallmeier • *news*

Colin DeClue • *entertainment*

Melissa Schwenk • *living*

Carly Baehr • *opinions*

Andrew Klusman • *sports*

Noël Spurgeon • *flipside*

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Kurtis Zimmerman • *web*

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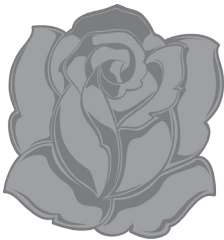
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Kurtis Zimmerman • *writer*

Rose Brewer • *puzzles*

Matt Vargo • *photographer*

Carly Baehr • *cartoonist*

The Rose Thorn is a weekly publication produced by the members of the community of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology published on Fridays first through ninth week each quarter. All students, faculty, and staff are welcome to attend weekly meetings, held at 5:15pm on Wednesdays in Olin Hall. We also welcome and encourage all community members to submit articles, photographs, car-

toons, and letters to the editor for publication.

We request that all letters to the editor be less than 600 words in length, and the deadline for content submission is 5:00 p.m. two days prior to publication. The editors reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, grammar, length, and factual errors, while preserving the original intent of the submission. The editors reserve the right to

accept content changes submitted after deadline. All submissions must contain the writer’s signature (electronic form is acceptable) and contact information. The editors reserve the right to reject submissions deemed inappropriate for print.

All content should be submitted to thorn@rose-hulman.edu or to the office of The Rose Thorn in Hulman Memorial Union room 249.

Material submitted for use in the print edition may also be included in the online edition located at <http://thorn.rose-hulman.edu>.

The views expressed in The Rose Thorn are those of their respective authors and, with the exception of the weekly Staff View published in the Opinions section, do not necessarily represent the views of the staff or the Rose-Hulman community.

NEWS BRIEFS

By Alex Mullans

France approves burqa ban

On Tuesday, France became the first European country to ban face-covering veils, including the burqa – a full-body covering worn by some Muslim women – from public wear. The law was approved by the French senate by a vote of 246 to 1; around 100 left-leaning politicians abstained from the vote. A study from the Pew Global Attitudes Project, a Washington-based think tank, found that 82 percent of French citizens approved of the ban. “Given the damage it produces on those rules which allow the life in community, ensure the dignity of the person and equality between sexes, this practice, even if it is voluntary, cannot be tolerated in any public place,” said the government regarding the ban. The fine for violation of this law is 150 euros (around \$190).

Gas line obliterates neighborhood

Last Thursday evening, a 24” diameter underground natural gas line ruptured, obliterating nearly 200 homes in a San Bruno, CA neighborhood. Witnesses said that the resulting fireball shot more than 100 feet into the air and set fire to dozens of homes around the break. At press time, the death toll from the explosion was 4. Officials said that the pipeline had been inspected just last year; PG&E, which owns the pipelines, is now re-inspecting all three pipelines in the San Francisco area. Residents of the surrounding neighborhood were not allowed to return to their homes until the following Sunday, and those in the 82 homes within the blast radius – now designated a disaster area – are still not permitted to return.

Search results in an Instant

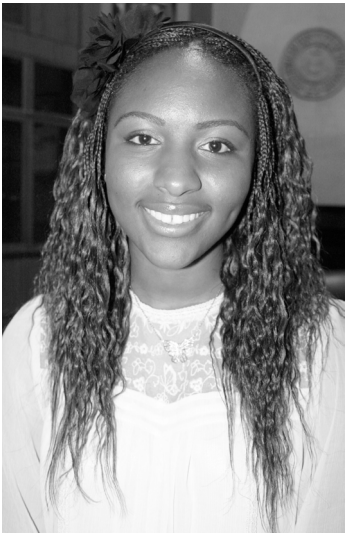
This week, Google launched a new improvement to its search engine’s interface in the form of Google Instant. For users with the option turned on, the search results page now dynamically loads results as the user types. This technology builds on Google’s earlier work with Google Suggest, which suggests search phrases while the user is typing. Google’s VP of search said that results are in fact delivered “before you type,” because Instant predicts queries and automatically completes them. The company has said that they hope to bring Instant to mobile devices in the coming months, but that will require further innovation given the difference between various mobile phone platforms.

Homecoming Queen 2010

Primary voting via Banner Web on Thursday, September 23; final election takes place on Friday, September 30



Jillian Hufgard
ΠΚΑ
Junior applied biology major



Andria Smith
NSBE/Triangle
Senior civil engineering major



Molly Gillam
Speed Hall
Senior applied biology major



Katie Trella
ΔΧΑ
Senior biomedical engineering major



Kendra Lyons
ΔΔΔ
Senior engineering physics major



Sara Telezyn
ΧΩ
Senior biomedical engineering major



Katherine Quigg
ΣΝ
Senior civil engineering major



Mychal Fitterer
ΑΤΩ
Senior biomedical engineering major



Melissa Galey
ΑΟΠ
Junior biochemistry major



Emily Meyer
ΑΧΣ
Senior chemical engineering major



Caroline Winters
ΔΣΦ
Junior mechanical engineering major



Kristen Latta
SWE
Senior applied biology major

Ryan Sohmer's new webcomic pokes fun at paper comics

Eli Baca • staff writer

In recent years, the web has become abuzz with webcomic humor. From the web series to the standard comic strip, webcomics have blown up and become a great new outlet for comedians, writers, and artists alike. Ryan Sohmer (Vice President/Creative Director of Blind Ferret Entertainment) has helped establish a community for artists to show off their talent with his comedic slice-of-life webcomic, “Least I Could Do (LICD)” and the comedic fantasy webcomic, “Looking For Group (LFG).” His artistic partner, Lar DeSouza, is the jelly to Sohmer’s peanut butter, and their latest venture of webcomics, called The Gutters, is pure superhero sardonic genius.

The Gutters, from Sohmer himself, is “a series of standalone pages that parody the

comic book industry and the heroes and characters that dwell within.” These standalones range from recent developments—like Angel going back to Dark Horse or DC’s Blackest Night—to general comic goodness—like Cable’s roles, powers, and general “who is this guy”-ness from Marvel. They also did a brief stint of commissions (not fully finished drawings) from artists at San Diego Comic-Con which were hilarious.

Artists featured on The Gutters are regulars from comic land, taking a break from their regularly scheduled items to contribute to the webcomic. The pages are well done and look exactly like a high profile page from one of the top comics. The commissions run was also amazing—penciled in batman looking for a job was outstanding—and each new webcomic page brings

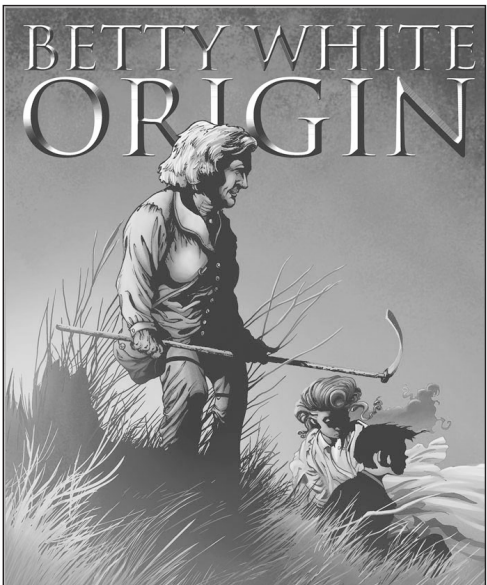
a little laugh to the greatest heroes of the comic-verse.

A downside? This webcomic isn’t actually a series but rather a giant stumble page for any comic fan. Some people may be looking for a new series to get into and The Gutters is not it. Instead it just highlights a random comic icon and takes a couple jabs at it—mostly with a smile, but does so in a way that every fan of that icon wants to tell the writers.

For example, last Friday, 9/10/10’s comic was about The Flash. Fans of the Flash know about the speed force, and anyone who has remotely heard of Star Wars knows about THE FORCE, so it was only necessary for Yoda to lay a smack down on the speedster. Another lovely comic? 8/30/10’s comic about the Green Lantern Corps and the thought that each Lantern has a

certain “jurisdiction”—this has rarely been used as a plot point in the comic and the writers have never really talked about it, so what would happen if a giant meteor was heading towards earth and it was out of the closest lantern’s area? Would we all die? Ponder that one Ryan Reynolds!

Die hard comic fans should get a laugh from each page, they are updated periodically on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays—just like xkcd—so stop on by www.the-gutters.com to see some new comic madness. Ryan Sohmer has hit a little niche of a gold mine with this latest webcomic



A guest artist reimagining of “Wolverine Origin” showcases the style of humor in “The Gutters”

<http://www.thegutters.com>

series and here’s some high hopes that the funnies keep on coming.

Review rating: 4.5 elephants



Expendables delivers expectably plot-light action

Hobey Tam • staff writer

Sylvester Stallone: 64 years young and still pumpin’ out movies like an automatic shotgun.

Alright readers of the Thorn, the first thing you must realize is that this is a Stallone movie. Though the monosyllabic, completely ridiculously sized Italian has tried to broaden his horizon into comedy and other failed endeavors, his main tenet of talent is action films. And that is a category he – to say the least – pwns. Observe his track record: Rambo series, and Rocky series. Linear, underdog action films – very predictable pictures that still possess some plot development and strong, raw emotion. After watching one of Stallone’s movies, you just want to go out and fight homeless people.

Thus, when you are thinking

about watching his latest action movie, “The Expendables,” know what you are getting into. Bottom line - it’s going to be predictable. Get over it. Don’t come out of the movie and comment on the absence of a deeper plot and character development. I mean, with a star studded action cast – Jet Li, Jason Statham, Lundgren, Couture, Stone Cold Steve Austin, Bruce Willis, and Terry “Cheeseburger Eddie” Crews to name just a few – it is going to have world class action. For its genre, no one will be disappointed. Nonstop action, fine females, and mind stomping awesomeness for 103 straight minutes.

However, in the scheme of movies in general, it has its short comings. Obviously, it is going to have weak plot and character development because of its genre. Something like “Inglori-

ous Basterds,” or even a Disney movie, is going to be stronger in that regard. Turns out huge explosions subtract from the subtext. A character will enter into the film by doing something completely awesome, and the audience simply knows he’s just another badass in Stallone’s unit of mercenaries, “The Expendables.” As I said before, though, it is to be expected because of its genre. Hence, there will be no plot summary, tagline, or anything of the sort in this review because I don’t want you to see the movie already knowing half of the plot.

If you are in the mood for some intense ass kicking, I highly recommend going to this movie. Avid movie goers should also come out and give this movie a chance because of its star studded cast. I guarantee this movie will not disap-



<http://moviebase.net>

point – it’s like “The A-Team,” only colder, more hardcore, and not PG-13 rated. Though not the best selection for a date movie, it’s a definite man-law approved movie.

Review rating: 4 elephants



Stadler's Barber Shop

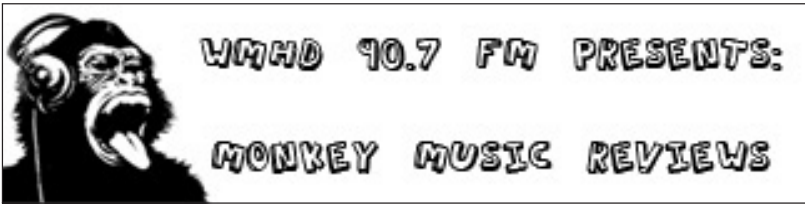
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"NO barber is qualified to do women's hair; NO beautician is qualified to do men's hair."



Xander Huff • monkey writer

Holy cow, has Kylie Minogue been around forever. After 20 years of releasing music, “Aphrodite” marks her 11th album. Strangely never quite reaching the popularity she enjoys in her home country of Australia and in Europe, she nevertheless finds her way unexpectedly into pop culture in movies such as “The Other Guys” as being one of the two things the Australian security guy loves in the world. Luckily for long-time listeners, Kylie has managed to completely avoid re-

peating her old styles, continuing to move forward with emerging music trends and working with new collaborators (including Jake Shears from “Scissor Sisters!”). Also a pleasure for old and new listeners alike is her avoidance of any sort of message. This is pure dance-pop, meant only to be enjoyed for what it is, with no message deeper than a song title “Everything is Beautiful.” The hooks abound on this album making it perfect for the dance-floor, while not leaving any details out for the home listener to pick up on and enjoy. While Kylie doesn’t stretch herself, “Aphrodite” is coming from someone who knows exactly where her talents lie and who works with let them shine. This al-



<http://clevescene.com>

bum is full of both chart-dominators and tracks that just work as one of her best albums yet.

Suggested Tracks: Get Outta My Way, Too Much, Can’t Beat the Feeling

Review rating: 4.5 elephants



Correction: Last week, Xander Huff’s name was incorrectly spelled “Zander.” Oops! -Ed.

NEW RELEASES

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Movies: | |
| Easy A | Margot and the Nuclear So-and-Sos <i>False Priest</i> |
| The Town | Liza Minelli <i>Confessions</i> |
| Devil | Games: |
| Music: | Halo: Reach (360) |
| Of Montreal <i>False Priest</i> | House M.D. (DS) |
| Weezer <i>Hurley</i> | |

How to: Be a Hulman Heckler

Tim Boyer • sports editor

With the fall season of sports getting into full swing, and even the first home football game this weekend (finally!), there is an aspect of sporting events that makes them extra-enjoyable to attend: the hecklers. Hecklers are not your typical fan. They do not sit quietly observing the match or game. They do not politely golf-clap for a good play or extraordinary effort by a player.

Hecklers are the loud and obnoxious fans, usually standing for the entirety of the game or match, making their voice heard over the whole field or in the entire arena. If you are on an opposing team, they are those annoying and obnoxious fans that won't shut up. Hecklers can play a vital role in a game or match by getting under the opponents skin and affecting their mental game, thus causing them to play poorly. They can also lighten the mood for the team they're sup-

porting, helping them relax and play well with the good feeling of knowing someone is cheering for you.

But heckling is like giving a good speech. If you do it wrong, you make yourself look like an idiot.

Heckling is not simply shouting a broad range of profanities or something middle school like "you suck." That's just uncreative. Everyone has heard that. The other team isn't going to be fazed. (And the profanities will most likely get you kicked out of the sporting event.)

Tip #1: Be creative. Anyone can shout "You suck!" Anyone can make as much noise as possible during a free throw in basketball. It's the creative heckles (or insults, at times) that can have an effect. Caroline Anderson, a senior biomedical engineering major, suggests that when heckling an official, use something like "check your voicemail, you missed a few calls." Notice the difference between the creative play on words versus

simply saying "you suck."

Tip #2: Be observant. Many times when creating heckles (or insults), it's also necessary to observe qualities of opposing players so as to single them out. This is best explained by an example Anderson said her sister uses. "She would just chant "tanning bed, tanning bed" at girls who were overly bronzed." Whether it be the over-bronzing, a bad dye job, or looking like a 14-year-old among college students, use the situation to your advantage.

Tip #3: Coordinate. With the previous two tips in mind (and perhaps the next as well), it is necessary to coordinate your efforts. The more organized a group of hecklers are, the more effective they can be.

Tip #4: If anything, mimic. This tip comes specifically from Anderson: "I'd say from personal experience, the thing that bothers people the most is when you mimic or imitate people. Because they can tune out

words and they can try tune out motions or movements, but they really, really can't when you're mimicking everything they do. In high school we used to do this thing called "mimic the coach" and we would do just everything the coach did and sometimes the coaches would just resort to just sitting on the sidelines, not moving a muscle."

Tip #5: Don't get kicked out. Follow the rules and regulations of the facility you're in. If the person in charge says you're standing too close, happily oblige to move back and simply increase the volume of your voice. If you're told you're being inappropriate, don't argue (discuss politely, if possible, regarding what the person believes is inappropriate), simply dial it back, maybe to just cheering on the good plays of your team.

All in all, enjoy yourself. Have a sense of humor about it all and support your Rose-Hulman athletic teams. They always appreciate it.

How we're starting the Fall Quarter

"Hitting the golf course, it's only five bucks."
-- Scott Gallmeier, News Editor

"I'm seeing the movie "Easy A" on Friday."
-- Emily Asman, Copy Editor

"Well, I've stopped sleeping, and tonight I had Cookie Crisp and a pancake for dinner. It was delicious, but it's OK, because I had a legitimate lunch."
-- Noël Spurgeon, Flipside Editor

"I'm disliking not having an oven in my apartment, and I'm enjoying only having 15 credits, four of which are unnecessary."
-- Carly Baehr, Opinions Editor

"I'm watching way too much 'Jersey Shore' and practicing my fist-pumping. Oh, and filling in for Melissa Schwenk as she studies abroad in Germany."
-- Andrew Klusman, Business Manager

"Finally understanding why my RA and my SAs always seemed to be awake. Turns out they never slept."
-- Alex Mullans, Editor-in-Chief

"I'm recovering from my third cold in two weeks"
-- Tim Ekl, Editor-in-Chief

"Tons of activities, even more sports, and maybe a class or three. But not sleep. At least not until October."
-- Matt Melton, Staff Writer



Advertisement

Eyes on IFC



Here's what your Greek community has been up to:

Rush is officially upon us! Freshmen get out there and rush as many fraternities as you can. First Formals will be held on Friday, September 24 and Sunday, September 26. Remember to get on Angel and sign up for those. Rush will be closed Homecoming weekend.

Brush Up for Homecoming is Saturday, September 25, so the entire Greek community will be out making our campus look good for Homecoming.

Some upcoming Rush Events:

Alpha Tau Omega is going Paintballing on Saturday, September 18, and is having Lawn Day on Speed Lawn on Wednesday, September 22.

Lambda Chi Alpha has Game Night on Friday, September 17, then Football Game with Pizza on Saturday, September 18.

Delta Sigma Phi is hosting Campus Golf on Saturday, September 18.

Theta Xi has Video Game Night on Friday, September 17, then Gutter Balls on Thursday, September 23.

Phi Gamma Delta is hosting a Cookout with Cornhole on

Friday, September 17, then a Cookout at the Football Game on Saturday, September 18, Volleyball and Cookout at the Apartments on Monday, September 20, then a Cookout at Deming Park on Wednesday, September 22.

Pi Kappa Alpha has a Scavenger Hunt on Friday, September 17, Pike Day on Saturday, September 18, and Sonic Couches on Sunday, September 19th.

Triangle has Sports Day on Saturday, September 18, then a Cookout on Speed Lawn on Tuesday, September 21st.

Meet your Greeks

Name: James Dalton
Fraternity: Sigma Nu
Year: Senior
Major: Mechanical engineering major
Hometown: Salem, OR
Future: Applying to the Einstein program with GE Aviation to obtain my Master's degree in aeronautical engineering
Accomplishments while at Rose: Alpha Lambda Delta, Pi Mu Epsilon, IFC Representative ('08-'09), Sigma Nu President (2009),

Greek of the Year ('09-'10).
When asked "What was the biggest benefit you received from going Greek here at Rose-Hulman?": The Greek community as a whole is amazingly close-knit here at Rose-Hulman. Just being a part of it has been an amazing experience in and of itself. However, if I had to make a choice, the lifelong bond I made with my fellow pledge brothers has been the most beneficial part of going Greek.



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Olin lobby redesign: close, but not quite

Tim Boyer • sports editor

You can't miss the big green stripe on the wall. You also can't miss the new, colorful furniture that fills the room.

It's the makeover that the Olin Lobby on the first and second floor received recently, complete with new colors, furniture, and carpet. Overall, whoever made the decision to make these changes (referred to henceforth as "they") got many things right; however, there are some aspects of the redone lobbies that missed the mark.

Let's start with something they got right: they got mostly functional furniture. There are numerous tables and chairs, allowing for a better area to hang out area or have study sessions (individual or

group). The lobby has more sitting and working area, allowing for more utilization of the spaces. In regards to the dividers, while they can cause a division among students occupying the space, they provide a handful of outlets in the middle of the room along with appear to be three whiteboards.

Now something they missed: the color scheme. Mostly the green stripe on the walls. Because of the space that the stripe is in, it appears to be a puke-colored green, as opposed to a more pleasant (relatively speaking) lime green that can be seen in the newly renovated library, as seen from outside. The interior designer (yes, hired by Rose), who thought they could transpose the color scheme to the older space in the Olin

Lobby from the nice, bright space of the library didn't quite succeed.

Now for a quick(ish) fix. Outlets. There still aren't nearly enough, especially for all the added workspace that now exists. For people who have laptops on the older side (where batteries don't last more than a few minutes, if at all), outlets are a necessity for using a laptop in that space. This might be a feature forthcoming, but if not, it should be added soon.

All in all, the furniture itself is more comfortable and the aspects that seem almost flawed can be easily fixed. Perhaps a wider amount of input should be gathered from campus in the future so as to make sure that the people who utilize the space get the features they desire.



The lobbies in Olin Hall have been re-painted and equipped with new chairs and tables so that students can use the area as a study space.

Carly Baehr • The Rose Thorn

Burn the Quran Day? Yes, we should care

Carly Baehr • opinions editor

As of this week, Pastor Jones is supposedly not going to hold his Quran-burning party. There has been a lot of speculation about the reasons for the cancellation, and one of the reasons floated was that the Imam in charge of building the community center near Ground Zero had agreed to move the site of the center somewhere more acceptable to Pastor Jones. The implication—and it has been both implied and stated openly by a variety of reporters and public figures—is that building a community center is tantamount to burning a different religion's holy book.

I could write pages just about why burning the Quran and building a mosque are not the same thing (the "mosque" is actually a community center in a former Burlington Coat Factory building; the book burning is meant to deliberately offend; there had actually been a mosque inside the World Trade Center before its destruction; burning books will just give terrorists another excuse to hate America—the list goes on), but that is not the point I want to make.

In last week's issue the article titled "Burn the Quran Day? So?" questioned why the U.S. should care so much about the Quran burning, when no one bats an eye at the destruction of Christian religious symbols. Burning Qurans and Bibles would perhaps be equivalent acts if there were no other factors involved, but the situation is not as simple as some people may like, and the importance of the "Burn the Quran Day" lies in what it says about the national climate and the rising anti-Muslim sentiment that can increasingly be seen throughout the U.S.

Firstly, even though the Quran and the Bible serve the same purpose for their respective reli-

gions, burning them is not equivalent in the U.S.—because the U.S. has a Christian majority and a small Muslim minority. This is a democracy, and as such it's difficult to feel properly oppressed if you're a member of the majority (especially when that majority is over-represented in the government, e.g. white male Christians). Protest in any form, be it sit-ins, hunger strikes, or book burnings, are intended to draw attention to an issue or a group that otherwise wouldn't get the attention the protesters believe it deserves. If a Muslim group burned Bibles to protest American involvement in Iraq, that would be a minority group protesting the actions of a majority. When a Christian pastor threatens to burn the Quran, a majority is attacking a minority—which is a different issue entirely.

Even though in a democracy the majority rules, the needs and beliefs of minorities are not supposed to be ignored. That's why the Quran burning is newsworthy: because it is part of a larger narrative in this country in which anti-Muslim remarks and beliefs are becoming more and more mainstream, including the rumors that Obama is an evil Muslim that started during the 2008 election and, now, the outrage that the New York Muslim community would dare to build a community center in the same neighborhood as Ground Zero.

Alarmingly, it seems that many Americans are losing sight of the fact that the religious freedom we supposedly enjoy in America must necessarily be accompanied by religious tolerance. The pastor of course has a First Amendment right to burn all the Qurans he wants, but the U.S. public should not be ignorant of what the book burning means about Americans' tolerance for other people who happen to be different.

STAFF VIEW: More substance, fewer buzzwords

"Stimulus." "Immigration." "Pork-barrel spending." "Socialist." "Abortion."

Turn on most American news channels nowadays and you'll most likely hear at least one of those words in the coverage of a political candidate or a government announcement. American politicians, and the media that report on them, have reduced our national political discussion to a series of buzzwords. Instead of discussing the issues in an intelligent and professional manner, our elected officials resort to calling their opponents "socialists" and "Tea Party fanatics" and shouting "You lie!" during Presidential speeches. Do we as citizens really appear unintelligent enough that the national conversation must be held at this level?

Though this problem almost certainly started with politicians, the media certainly hasn't helped put out the fire. Gone

are the days when one could sit down and watch a news program to learn about the news. Short of The News Hour on PBS, most modern American news coverage has degenerated to 1 – 1.5 minute stories filled with buzzwords and quotes flashing across the screen in rapid succession. Interviews, rather than being a place from which a candidate could have a conversation with America through honest questions and answers, are now a forum for interviewers who have already formed their opinion to force the interviewee to give them a sentence long enough to flash on the screen.

Politicians know it's all about the snippets. Why have an honest discussion about the pros and cons of government-sponsored healthcare when you can simply claim that the government's creating "death panels" and get quoted non-stop for the next 24-hour news cycle? Why

listen to what may be a legitimate grassroots interests group when you can label them "Tea Partiers"? Perhaps the most famous snippet of all is "abortion." Mention the word and you're likely to spend the next hour in a heated debate about it. Is abortion relevant to the job our elected officials are doing when it comes to fixing the economy, dealing with the aftermath and fighting of two wars, and representing the best intentions of Americans abroad? Probably not; yet, there are still lots of Americans who proudly proclaim that they won't vote for such-and-such a candidate because he's for/against abortion.

Returning to our original point, do the citizens of this country want a child's-level political discussion reduced to buzzwords and snippets? The short answer, sadly, is a qualified yes. For every American out there

CONCURRING: 7

DISSENTING: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

willing to sit down and have an honest conversation about the issues, there is at least one who is happy to show up to a rally and wave ridiculous signs about or show up to a town hall and shout down any reasonable discussion. In closing, a challenge: next time you watch/read the news, pick out the buzzwords. Watch two different networks and try to sort out the truth from the spin created by both sides. If politicians would do the same, maybe they'd start to speak to the American public as educated individuals, rather than children who need to be talked down to.

9-0 and taking on the nation's best

Tim Boyer • sports editor

After struggling in previous years, at times to even have a winning season, the women's volleyball team is off to their best start in school history, winning all of the their first nine matches. Tonight and tomorrow, they will truly be put to the test, taking on second-ranked Juniata College, the national runner-up last season and Washington University, the defending national champions and unanimous No. 1 squad in the nation this week.

While the caliber of the competition they have faced so far may be on the lower side, there was one significant accomplishment in those nine matches: They beat DePauw. "That's what I'm most proud of right now," said junior biomedical engineering student Karah Hickman. "Last year we came really, really close; it went to five games and in the past we've been creamed. Just that was really an accomplishment." Junior biomedical engineering student Morgan Williams added that it feels "better than out 9-0 record."

Senior chemistry student Amanda Jevons has noticed

a trend over her four years of the ability of the Rose-Hulman program to succeed. "I think you can just see based on how we play against them," Jevons said, "because they've always been consistently good, so you can see how much our program has grown, just by seeing how we've played against DePauw."

Fellow senior and physics student Sam Gregory has noticed a specific change within the team. "I think as a program we've grown as in being able to have the communication on the court in-



Women's volleyball holds a perfect 9-0 record.

Rose-Hulman News

stead of just off the court," Gregory said. "In previous years, we've been really good friends off the court and then this year we're able to bring those kinds of friendships, the way you can communicate with other people off the court, to the court."

Sam Gregory unfortunately suffered a season-ending knee injury toward the end of this last summer, causing her to take on a new role within the team. "My mom sent me a text the other day," she told The Thorn, "that said 'I want you to understand and know that when somebody struggles on a team or somebody is not able to do something on a team, the other people see that and they get inspired by your rehab, inspired by your little accomplishments, or just inspired by you in general because they're going to use the things that you can't right then' and I said well, I at least know six girls really well on this team and I know that's what they see, so I just want to be somewhat of an inspiration or just that motivation to say 'you can do what I can't do right now, so do it because you



The women's volleyball team will take on the #1 and #2 teams in the country tonight.

Rose-Hulman News

us run their defense so we know what the holes are, what's open, how can we react to that, how they're going to play." Junior biomedical engineering student Leah Pelzel added that they're "also running plays to try and speed up our offense so that their blockers get more tired."

Regardless of the outcome, Jevons sees the benefit of her team playing such high caliber teams. "I think it's a good opportunity," she said, "because when

can'."

Jevons added that "it was a really hard blow for me for her not to be there. So she's a huge motivation for me because I want to be able to play for her me on the court." Gregory still considers herself "one of their teammates."

Despite the loss of Gregory as a player, the team is preparing to take on the top two teams in the country. "We've kind of gone over their defense a little bit more," said Jevons, "so Coach will have

we play our conference teams they're going to seem way less [of a challenge] because we're playing such good teams to begin with. When we play our conference, we're going to go in really confident, knowing competition way higher than what they are. I think it'll be a good opportunity to see how we compare to them and just how far we can go."

The volleyball team had two messages to send: The fans are great and "suck it DePauw!"

ROCKWELL COLLINS DAY: September 18th

Join Career Services
and reps & alumni
from Rockwell Collins
all day on Saturday!
Come mix & mingle
with one of our top
hiring companies!

Network before the 1pm
football game & BBQ 5:30 -
7:30pm on the Hatfield
Lawn before the show!

Rockwell Collins

GREAT MUSIC!

FREE FOOD!

ENTER TO WIN
COOL PRIZES!

(must be present to win)



Come learn about intern and
full-time opportunities for
CS, SE, EE, & CPE majors!
(but all are welcome!)

ENGINEER SCOREBOARD

| Football 0 - 1 (0 - 0 HCAC) | | Women's Soccer 1 - 4 - 0 (0 - 0 - 0 HCAC) | |
|--|----|--|-------|
| Sep 11 | | Sep 12 | |
| Rose-Hulman | 16 | Muskingham Col. | 1 |
| DePauw Univ. | 45 | Rose-Hulman | 5 |
| Men's Soccer 1 - 4 - 2 (0 - 0 - 0 HCAC) | | Women's Tennis 4 - 1 (4 - 0 HCAC) | |
| Sep 10 | | Sep 11 | |
| Rose-Hulman | 0 | Defiance College | 2 |
| Wilmington College | 0 | Rose-Hulman | 7 |
| Sep 11 | | Sep 11 | |
| Rose-Hulman | 0 | Earlham College | 3 |
| Kenyon College | 2 | Rose-Hulman | 6 |
| Sep 15 | | | |
| Rose-Hulman | 2 | | |
| Fontbonne Univ. | 2 | | |
| Volleyball 9 - 0 (0 - 0 HCAC) | | | |
| Sep 10 | | | |
| Wilmington College | 15 | 11 | 25 12 |
| Rose-Hulman | 25 | 25 | 18 25 |
| Sep 10 | | | |
| Eureka College | 13 | 6 | 13 |
| Rose-Hulman | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| Sep 11 | | | |
| DePauw University | 23 | 10 | 25 16 |
| Rose-Hulman | 25 | 25 | 19 25 |
| Sep 11 | | | |
| Principia College | 21 | 21 | 16 |
| Rose-Hulman | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| Women's Golf | | | |
| Sep 11-12 | | | |
| Hanover Invitational | | | 7th |
| Hanover, Ind. | | | of 10 |

Relative awkwardness of female-female hugging: a graphical approach

Carly Baehr • personal space guru

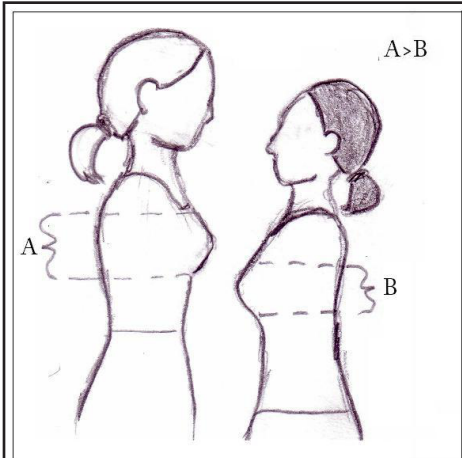


Figure 1: Female A is taller than Female B; boob overlap is at acceptable levels. Awkwardness is minimized.

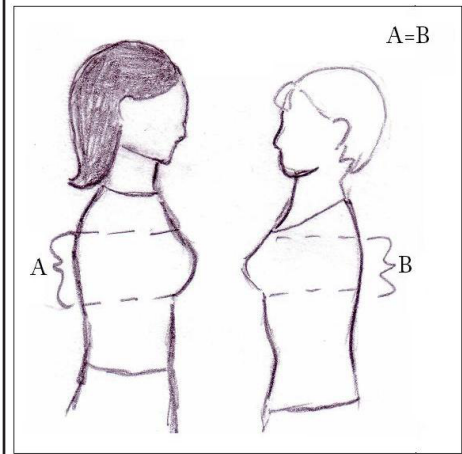


Figure 2: Females A and B are of similar height; boob overlap is high. Awkwardness is increased.

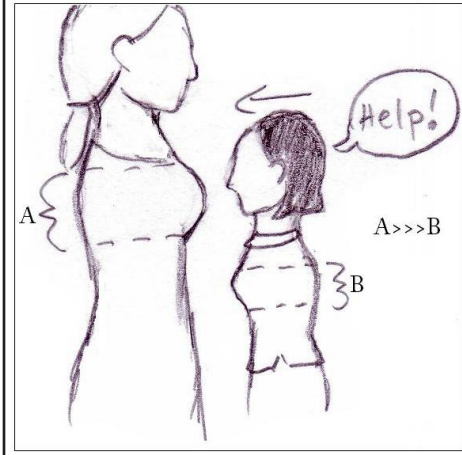


Figure 3: Female A is much taller than Female B. Awkwardness for the former is low; awkwardness for the latter party is maximum.

Top “10” Ten

Top Ten reasons we don’t have a Top Ten this week

Matt Melton • procrastination professional

- 10. My dog ate the Top Ten.
- 9. I got laked and forgot to take it out of my pocket.
- 8. My laptop bluescreened, and I forgot to save... three times.
- 7. I traded it to a freshman for some Magic cards
- 6. Forgot it at an unauthorized Rush party... along with the rest of the night. On a completely unrelated note, has anyone seen my car?
- 5. Ryland and Ronin wrote it, but its really hard to make out their sidewalk scribbles.
- 4. Second year grad student-itis. You think senioritis is bad? Try staying motivated after a year where you could have been making \$80,000.
- 3. My girlfriend tore up “Top Ten reasons video games are better than girls”.
- 2. We wrote it on Schrödinger’s laptop. It’s written... but it’s not.
- 1. Pete Gustafson did not approve of “Top Ten reasons Pete Gustafson needs to choke a... Sharepoint person.”

This day...

1630: The city of Boston, Massachusetts is founded. Originally a refuge for English Puritans, Boston was thought by some to have a special covenant with God which decreed that it would serve as a model of Christian living. In an ironic twist, modern Boston is inhabited not by Puritans, but by a tribe of people who are much more likely to shank you for failing to “pahk the caah in the graahage” properly.



www.hillbillyhousewife.com

...in history

Wacky prof quotes

“This phrase will save your marriage: ‘go ask your mother.’”
— Dr. Bremmer. Ask whose mother? And for what? She’s a very nice lady, but she DOES have her limits.

“Voltage is called a potential difference because it’s a difference in potentials.”
—Dr. Wheeler. Also: circular logic works because circular logic works.

“You’re going to lose either way... just like engineering school!”
—Dr. Steinstra. You lose sleep, your sanity, your GPA, and if you’re still reading, you’ve just lost the game.

“Have you guys heard of Type III secretion? Oh my God you’ll love it! Type III secretion is AWESOME!”
—Dr. Coppinger. Well, now I have. I’m still not sure why it’s awesome though.

“ADD is awesome, but only for me.”
— Dr. Steinstra. I don’t think I—SHINY.

Rose Profs say crazy things. E-mail them to the Flipside at thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu

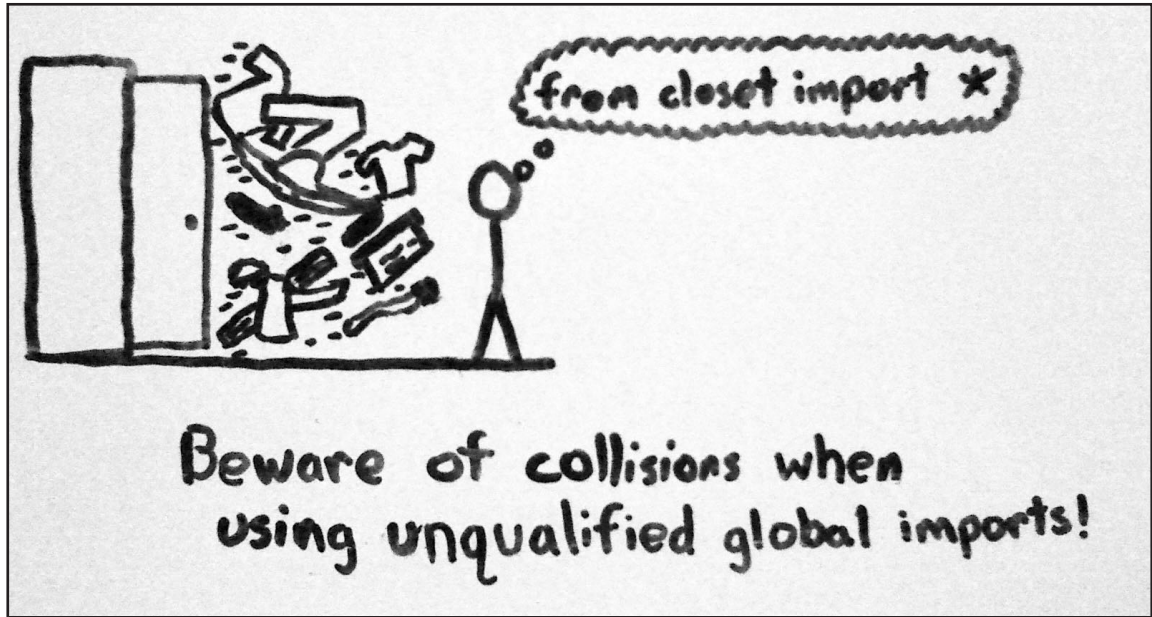


ROSE MEN OF GENIUS

Celebrating the unsung heroes of Rose-Hulman

Noël Spurgeon • humor editor

Today, we salute you, Mr. Short Pants Pant-Wearer. Whether you model man-pris, showboat the short sweatpants, herald the high-waters or flaunt the floods, you make a statement wherever you go. From the sweltering heat of summer to the cold, bitter pimp slap of the Terre Haute winter, your ankles are simply too magnificent to languish underneath fleece or denim. While the rest of you may be wrapped in a goose down parka, six pairs of gloves, and socks so thick they significantly lower your center of gravity, your hemline is permanently poised at the point of slipping. One false move, and your woolen foot-coverings flash-freeze to your legs in a cruel, cruel parody of sock tan. But you embrace the danger: it is a small price to pay for a world blessed by the sight of your glorious gams. So keep on strolling, oh sultan of the short pants... may you strive for sexiness wherever you go.



Eric Reed • This is why we don’t let him take out the garbage either

Keeping it up for forty years

Melissa Schwenk • hardcore Thorn enthusiast

On this our fortieth anniversary of the Rose Thorn, the staff would like to look back and reminisce on these long years of pleasing the campus community. It has been our pleasure to inform and amuse the campus. We put our backs into it, with long nights spent bent over the staff tables, slaving over the page. We look forward to many more years of keeping it up, even if we have to break out the handcuffs and whips.

While not the largest campus publication, the Thorn has been servicing the campus community continually for forty very long, hard years. Compared with other publications on campus, this is the longest uninterrupted relationship, providing pleasure not only to the readers but also those involved on this end. We’ve had our ups and downs, and our ins and outs, but through it all, we’ve been loyal to our readers.

In comparison to the Modulus, which has failed to deliver

at least twice in its history, and The Technic, which ended up going down in 1970, the Rose Thorn has delivered consistently to the pleasure and sometimes pleasurable discomfort of its readers since 1971. Even when we were just a bunch of men, we slaved away for hours in the lonely, dark office, pounding away at the paper.

Now we gladly spend long hours in the office, listening to Bad Touch on repeat and trying to convince local businesses like Cirilla’s to run ads with us. Even though we can now use technology and can work much faster, sometimes we just have to order some Zanzabar’s and print it gently. Every Thursday we look forward to our afternoon delight of meeting in the office and hammering out the pages. Sometimes it gets a little hot and sweaty, but that just means the air conditioning has gone out.

So here’s to you, campus community, and our long, pleasurable time together. We’ll keep it going hard and strong just for you.